News Desk

Edited: Derek Johnson

Purple, Strawbs, Stardust: full concert tour schedules

DATES AND VENUES have at last been finalised for Deep Purple's first British tour with their new line-up. Since they last played dates in this country, David Coverdale has replaced Ian Gillan as lead vocalist, and ex-Trapeze bassist and singer Glenn Hughes has taken over from Roger Glover. As a result of these changes, Purple are now featuring two vocalists.

With their new album "Burn" currently in the charts, and their new single "Might Just Take Your Life" just released, Purple are at present engaged on a tour of America. They re-shaped their line-up last autumn, played a short series of warm-up gigs in Europe at the end of last year, and are now — according to a spokesman — "sounding better than ever".

The British tour is promoted by Harvey Goldsmith. Box-office opening dates and ticket prices vary considerably, and readers are advised to check at individual venues for details. The itinerary — which is interrupted at the end of April by a brief visit to Holland for concerts in Amsterdam — comprises:

DUNDEE Caird Hall (April 18), EDINBURGH Odeon (19), GLASGOW Apollo Centre (21 and 22), BIRMINGHAM Odeon (May 4), PRESTON Guildhall (5), SHEFFIELD City Hall (6), STOKE Trentham Gardens (7), LONDON HAMMERSMITH Odeon (9), NORWICH Theatre Royal (10), LONDON LEWISHAM Odeon (12), NEWCASTLE Odeon (14), MANCHESTER Belle Vue (15), SOUTHAMPTON Gaumont (18), BOURNEMOUTH Winter Gardens (19), BRISTOL Colston Hall (20), LONDON KILBURN Gaumont State (22), WOLVERHAMPTON Civic Hall (24), CARDIFF Capitol (26), COVENTRY Theatre (28).

Purple's JON LORD

THE STRAWBS begin a 25-venue British concert tour next month, and these dates will mark their first appearance in this country for more than a year. The band, currently midway through a six-week American tour, underwent a major personnel upheaval last year when the Hudson-Ford duo split from the Strawbs.

The new line-up comprises original members Dave Cousins and Dave Lambert, plus newcomers John Hawken (keyboards and synthesiser), Chas Cronk (bass) and Rod Coombes (drums).

The first album by the revamped group, "Hero And Heroine", will be issued here by A & M on April 5 to tie in with the tour — and the title track will be released simultaneously as a single. The Strawbs appear in BBC-2's "Old Grey Whistle Test" on April 9 and in Radio 1's "In Concert" on April 13.

The spring tour is likely to comprise the band's only British appearances this year. They return to America for further concerts between May 16 and June 30, spend most of July and August recording a new album, undertake a nine country European tour in September, visit Australia and Japan in October and return yet again to the States in November.

During their British dates, the Strawbs will feature material from their earlier "Grave New World" and "Bursting At The Seams" albums, plus all the tracks from their upcoming "Hero And Heroine" set. A special stereo sound system and a new light show are being imported from America for their home dates. Promoter Mike Deacon still has another five dates to finalise, but confirmed venues so far are:

LEICESTER De Montfort Hall (April 10), HULL City Hall (16), ABERDEEN Music Hall (17), NEWCASTLE City Hall (19), LIVERPOOL Royal Court (20 — two shows), BIRMINGHAM Town Hall (21 — two shows), HANLEY Victoria Hall (22), BRADFORD St. George's Hall (23), PRESTON Guildhall (24), SHEFFIELD City Hall (25), EDINBURGH Usher Hall (26), GLASGOW Kelvin Hall (27), MANCHESTER Opera House (28 — two shows), HARROGATE Royal Theatre (30 — two shows), BRISTOL Colston Hall (May 2), PAIGNTON Festival Theatre (3), LEEDS University (4), OXFORD New Theatre (7), BOURNEMOUTH Winter Gardens (8), LONDON DRURY LANE Theatre Royal (12).

ALVIN STARDUST has been booked for a massive British concert tour by promoter Arthur Howes. It opens on April 12 and runs for two months, incorporating a total of 42 dates.

Included in the schedule are some of the country's leading venues — among them London Rainbow, Glasgow Apollo and Manchester Free Trade Hall. Support act throughout will be another Magnet group, Fable.

Stardust was due to open a preliminary one-nighter tour last weekend, but had to cancel the first three dates due to illness. Two of these gigs — at Dunstable and Doncaster — have now been re-scheduled for Arthur Howes' tour.

The itinerary includes three days in Ireland (May 14-16) which have still to be finalised, and another seven home dates are also awaiting confirmation, but details of the first 32 venues are:

CHATHAM Central Hall (April 12), BLACKPOOL Opera House (13), LIVERPOOL Royal Court Theatre (14), BRISTOL Colston Hall (16), LONDON GREENWICH Borough Hall (18), HASTINGS Pier Pavilion (19), LONDON EAST HAM Granada (20), CROYDON Fairfield Hall (21), BOURNEMOUTH Winter Gardens (22), PORTSMOUTH Locarno (23), DUNSTABLE California (27), TAUNTON Gaumont (28), SWANSEA Top Rank (29), NOTTINGHAM Palais (May 2), LONDON Rainbow Theatre (3), MANCHESTER Free Trade Hall (4), READING Top Rank (5), OXFORD New Theatre (10), KETTERING Granada (11), HULL City Hall (18), DONCASTER Top Rank (19), SUNDERLAND Top Rank (21), DUNDEE Caird Hall (23), GLASGOW Apollo (24), EDINBURGH Odeon (25), SOUTHPORT Floral Hall (26), STAFFORD Top Of The World (27), PETERBOROUGH Wirrana Stadium (31), MARGATE Winter Gardens (June 1), WORTHING Assembly Hall (6), SOUTHAMPTON Gaumont (7), BIRMINGHAM Odeon (8).

● **Howes told NME that box-offices for the first two weeks of the tour will be opening tomorrow (Friday). Readers should contact individual venues for details of other dates.**

Bad Company take off ...

PAUL RODGERS in action at Newcastle City Hall last Saturday when the new Bad Company outfit made their triumphant British debut. The band — also featuring Simon Kirke, Mick Ralphs and Boz — begin a full tour of this country early next month. See review, page 38.